INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRES

The International Trade Centres (ITC's) located within the provincial offices of the new Department of Industry, Science and Technology Canada (ISTC), offer a full range of trade services including export counselling, the provison of market opportunity information and the administration of the Program for Export Market Development(PEMD). An important element is the World Information Network for Exports (WIN) system which provides key information on Canadian companies along with details of their trade activities. External Affairs and International Trade's 120 trade offices around the world rely on this computerized directory of Canadian exporters for information about Canadian capabilities to match with market opportunities.

In a move to provide more comprehensive export services to business communities across Canada, the Export Development Corporation will relocate its regional offices to the Centres once current leases expire. As well, the future regional operations of CIDA's Business Cooperation Program will be located within selected ITC's, effectively consolidating key Federal departments and agencies for easy access for Canadian exporters.

The ITCs will be backed by traditional support material such as foreign country market profiles and analytical material on such topics as agents, trading houses, cross-licensing and joint ventures. As well, EAITC/ISTC information data bases will make business persons aware of trade fair opportunities, outgoing missions to foreign countries and incoming buyer missions from abroad.

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